

Mississippi Receives High Performance Bonus for Efforts in Welfare to Work Programs

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 26, 2005 -- Governor Haley Barbour today announced that Mississippi has received a high performance bonus for its efforts to move Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients from welfare to work and toward self-sufficiency.

The state, one of 10 states whose outstanding work for calendar year 2004 was recognized, will receive a bonus of \$2,397,150, which will be used for a variety of supportive services designed to help people overcome barriers to employment and self-sufficiency. The program is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

"I am delighted with the outstanding efforts by dedicated DHS employees who worked so diligently to achieve this high level of service to Mississippians," Governor Barbour said. "It is further evidence that we are committed to helping move Mississippi's children and families toward a goal of self-sufficiency."

High performance awards are based on the size of a state's TANF block grant and performance in achieving job retention, increased earnings or other goals of welfare reform.